

Appl. No. 10/615,970
Docket No. 9325
Amendment dated September 13, 2007
Reply to Final Office Action mailed on June 13, 2007
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 15 have been amended to define the claimed invention with greater specificity by reciting that a surface of the fibrous structure comprises the fiber flexibilizing system. Support for the amendments is found throughout the Specification, for example at page 21, lines 5-9.

Claim 2 has been amended to be consistent with Claim 1, as amended.

Claims 8, 9, 11 and 13 have been amended to correct their claim dependency.

Claims 7 and 16 have been cancelled without prejudice. The subject matter of Claims 7 and 16 is present in Claims 1 and 15, as amended.

Claims 1-6, 8-15 and 17-18 are pending in the present application. No additional claims fee is believed to be due.

Rejection Under 35 USC §102/§103 Over U.S. Patent Nos. 5,240,562, 5,334,286,
5,279,767, 5,624,532 or 5,981,044

Claims 1-18 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly defining obvious subject matter over U.S. Patent No. 5,240,562 to Phan et al. ("the '562 Patent"), U.S. Patent No. 5,334,286 to Van Phan et al. ("the '286 Patent"), U.S. Patent No. 5,279,767 to Phan et al. ("the '767 Patent"), U.S. Patent No. 5,624,532 to Trokhan et al. ("the '532 Patent") or U.S. Patent No. 5,981,044 to Phan et al. ("the '044 Patent"). The Examiner asserts that all of these references teach a tissue containing a polyhydroxy compound, same as the ones claimed and added at the same range as claimed in the claimed invention. Further, the Examiner asserts that the references teach the use of opacity increasing agents, such as particular fillers.

Applicants respectfully submit that the references, the '562 Patent, the '286 Patent, the '767 Patent, the '532 Patent and the '044 Patent, all fail to teach each and every element of Claims 1 and 15, the independent claims, as amended, because they each fail to teach a fibrous structure comprising a surface comprising a fiber flexibilizing agent system comprising a fiber flexibilizing agent and an opacity increasing agent.

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Applicants appreciate that prior art fibrous structures contain fiber flexibilizing agents, such as polyhydroxy compounds, and that the prior art fibrous structures comprise fillers (some of which may be opacity increasing agents according to the Examiner). However, Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art fibrous structures teach placing fillers in the fiber slurry used to make the fibrous structures and applying a polyhydroxy compound on a surface of the fibrous structure and/or placing both fillers and polyhydroxy compounds in the fiber slurry used to make the fibrous structures.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 15, as amended, are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious over any of the references, the '562 Patent, the '286 Patent, the '767 Patent, the '532 Patent and the '044 Patent, alone or in combination. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-6 and 8-14 (Claim 7 has been cancelled), which ultimately depend from Claim 1, as amended, and Claims 17-18 (Claim 16 has been cancelled), which ultimately depend from Claim 15, as amended, are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious over any of the references, the '562 Patent, the '286 Patent, the '767 Patent, the '532 Patent and the '044 Patent, alone or in combination.

Rejection Under 35 USC §102/§103 Over Japan Patent Application No. 11332777

Claims 1-18 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly defining obvious subject matter over Japan Patent Application No. 11332777 to Yoshifumi et al. ("Yoshifumi"). The Examiner asserts that Yoshifumi teaches a wiping product in which a polyol compound, including a polyethylene oxide, is added to the web. Further, the Examiner asserts that Yoshifumi teaches the addition of fillers to the wiping product.

Applicants respectfully submit that Yoshifumi fails to teach each and every element of Claims 1 and 15, the independent claims, as amended, because it fails to teach a fibrous structure comprising a fiber flexibilizing agent system comprising a fiber flexibilizing agent and an opacity increasing agent. Applicants appreciate that prior art fibrous structures contain fiber flexibilizing agents, such as polyhydroxy compounds, and that the prior art fibrous structures comprise fillers (some of which may be opacity increasing agents according to the Examiner). However, Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art fibrous structures teach placing fillers in the fiber slurry used to make the

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fibrous structures and applying a polyhydroxy compound on a surface of the fibrous structure and/or placing both fillers and polyhydroxy compounds in the fiber slurry used to make the fibrous structures.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 15, as amended, are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious over Yoshifumi. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-6 and 8-14 (Claim 7 has been cancelled), which ultimately depend from Claim 1, as amended, and Claims 17-18 (Claim 16 has been cancelled), which ultimately depend from Claim 15, as amended, are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious over Yoshifumi.

Rejection Under 35 USC §102/§103 Over U.S. Patent Application Publication Nos.
2002/0192407, 2001/0055609, 2004/0052834 or 2003/0136531

Claims 1-18 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly defining obvious subject matter over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0192407 to Hendrix et al. ("Hendrix"), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0055609 to Shantz et al. ("Shantz"), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0052834 to West et al. ("West") or U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0136531 to Edwards et al. ("Edwards"). The Examiner asserts that all of these references teach a tissue in which polyethylene oxide, polyethylene glycol is added to the tissue. Further, the Examiner asserts that all of the references teach the use of the same type of polyethylene glycol as described within the present application. Further, the Examiner asserts that the references teach the use of fillers and/or pigments.

Applicants respectfully submit that the references, Hendrix, Shantz, West and Edwards, all fail to teach each and every element of Claims 1 and 15, the independent claims, as amended, because they each fail to teach a fibrous structure comprising a fiber flexibilizing agent system comprising a fiber flexibilizing agent and an opacity increasing agent. Applicants appreciate that prior art fibrous structures contain lotion compositions that comprises fiber flexibilizing agents, such as polyhydroxy compounds, and that the prior art fibrous structures comprise fillers (some of which may be opacity increasing agents according to the Examiner). However, Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art fibrous structures teach placing fillers in the fiber slurry used to make the fibrous

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structures and applying a polyhydroxy compound on a surface of the fibrous structure and/or placing both fillers and polyhydroxy compounds in the fiber slurry used to make the fibrous structures.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 15, as amended, are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious over any of the references, Hendrix, Shantz, West and Edwards, alone or in combination. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-6 and 8-14 (Claim 7 has been cancelled), which ultimately depend from Claim 1, as amended, and Claims 17-18 (Claim 16 has been cancelled), which ultimately depend from Claim 15, as amended, are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious over any of the references, Hendrix, Shantz, West and Edwards, alone or in combination.

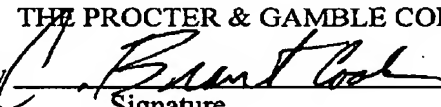
Conclusion

This response represents an earnest effort to place the application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as now claimed from the applied references. In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of this application, and allowance of Claims 1-6, 8-15 and 17-18 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY

By


Signature

C. Brant Cook

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